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Minutes of June 1, 2009

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) Meeting Minutes for June meeting, 1 June 2009

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeffrey Roth, and Scott Smith. Mike Beck, Chad Gibson, Joey Glushko, Erna Greene, Doug Greenfield, Stephen Quinn were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.

*The minutes from the May meeting were voted on and approved with minor corrections. The changes included fixing name misspellings on the BIKE-Arlington Tour, corrections on the bicycle rack installations topic, and amendments to the section discussing the t-shirt fundraiser.

Comments on recent and upcoming events: The BIKE-Arlington Tour was discussed. The event occurred on Sunday 17 May and rainy weather prevented broad participation. The route was strongly liked, and Christopher suggested re-doing the same route again next year since not many people attended. For future BIKE-Arlington Tour events, rain dates were suggested and discussed, but not recommended due to difficulty in planning. The police committed to coming this year, but did not ultimately attend. Due to the nature of the route, if it is used next year it will be necessary to confirm definitively on the police's participation since the route has some tricky parts that could be challenging to coordinate with a large number of people. Joey also suggested making a ride using this year route part of the Town Day events in the future (September timeframe).

Other recent events discussed included the Ride for Silence (mentioned by Stephen) and the Boston Bike Festival (mentioned by Jack). Jack showed a new Boston bicycle map unveiled at the Boston Bike Festival, that is being offered free around the city.

Town Day planning for September 2009 was also discussed on this agenda topic of events. The booth application (\$30) needs to be submitted shortly, and Christopher said he will submit it. At the time of the meeting, it was believed that the dates for the 2009 Town Day are 26 September, with a rain day of 4 October. The Board of Selectmen have requested ABAC to provide bicycle parking at Town Day. Ted suggested having this service located in close proximity to the ABAC booth, which all meeting attendees agreed would be ideal. The details of the bicycle parking need to be further worked out and coordinated with the Board of Selectmen.

Action Item: Christopher will submit the Town Day booth application for ABAC.

ABAC leadership was discussed, as Jack will be stepping down as of this June meeting. Christopher volunteered to assume the role of Interim Chairperson. Joey will take on more formal duties such as ABAC administration and preparing meeting agendas.

*It was voted unanimously that Jack would be established as Chair Emeritus, meaning he would be happy to advise and participate in future projects.

The Mass Ave Corridor Project was discussed. The Board of Selectmen are looking to expand the Task Force committee to include broader participation. They have put out word for applications. From the perspective of bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, a compromised plan was presented a few weeks ago at the Hardy Elementary School. This new plan now includes two east-bound lanes and one west-bound lane, leaving less room for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation and leading to a wider street. Joey pointed out that the Planning Department did not initially desire to widen the street, but are considering doing so now in spite of its compromised safety for users.

Action Item: Jack will re-distribute the memo which Chad and Philip Goff wrote to the Board of Selectmen in May on the Mass Ave Corridor Project.

The Arlington bicycle lane network was discussed. Jeff presented the idea discussed at the ABAC Winter Social in February of a proposed bicycle/motorist lane-sharing network for Arlington. This idea was strongly supported by ABAC members. People suggested organizing this plan and submitting to Town stakeholders such as the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, the Department of Public Works (DPW), Town Engineering Department, and the Transportation Advisory Committee. Joey suggested updating this once or twice a year and re-sending it to the stakeholders. The plan would include details on each street where lane-sharing is proposed, and cataloging each street's condition and suggested implementation details for each lane-sharing configuration.

Action Item: Jeff will assemble a draft of this document for the August meeting for further review and discussion.

Updates on the bicycle rack installations. The Town's bicycle racks have now been delivered, and are ready for installation. However, some (seven of the 38 received) were damaged during shipping and are being replaced by the vendor. The sidewalks and locations where the racks will be installed have been marked with spray paint by Joey, Jack, and Chad. ABAC has suggested to the Town that the Capitol Theatre Block be the first place where the racks are installed, due to the strong need and interest by the businesses there. John Bean of DPW has declared that he now wants all of the news-racks, currently taking up much-needed space on the sidewalk in that and others areas, to be certified and approved by him. Those unapproved will be removed, starting in the Capitol Theatre Block. Shortly after these racks are installed, ABAC would like to see the racks intended for Library Way (next to Robbins Library) installed.

Mike Beck suggested ABAC issue a press release once the racks are installed, including photos of the new racks. (The photos are required also to receive

the MAPC reimbursement.)

Action Items: Jack will send Mike the list of rack installation locations.

Mike will take photos of all the racks once installed.

Chad will make a Google-type mark-up map showing the rack locations.

Jeff will add this to the Arlington Bicycling Town webpage.

Updates on Bicycling Safe Routes to School (BSRTS) Program. The program so far has been executed successfully. The bicycle racks at Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway are being used heavily, indicating children are using them to bicycle to nearby Hardy School. Scott has been doing Friday-morning promotions, and each day observed approximately a dozen bicyclists and a hundred walkers. It was suggested that Hardy and other schools in Arlington could still order racks through the MAPC program. Joey pointed out that as a result of the BSRTS outreach efforts, Town Manager Brian Sullivan has recently requested that bicycle parking exist specifically on school grounds, which previously had been discouraged. On Friday night June 5, Lauren Hefferon is planning to hold a tally of the pilot BSRTS program to record people's observations of numbers of bicyclists and walkers to Hardy School. For this event, ABAC will be donating two of the recent "Arlington Pedal Revolution" t-shirt in kids sizes to be awarded to the top-two Hardy-student BSRTS participants.

Discussion on ABAC T-Shirt Fundraiser and Outreach Event. The idea of setting up a table on the Minuteman Bikeway to sell t-shirts and lemonade and offer free bicycle safety tips and helmet-fit checks was discussed. Various dates and times were suggested. Saturday 13 June was proposed as the date of this. A letter was drafted by Jeff to formalize this request to the Board of Selectmen. The approximate timeframe for the event would be Saturday 10a-2p, with the location at Linwood Street and the Minuteman Bikeway. Discussion occurred for planning on signs, advertisements in the Arlington Advocate, and who to bring tables, drinks and literature.

Discussion on Photo for Bicycling in Arlington Webpage. ABAC member Jeff Roth has put together a webpage for the Arlington Town website on bicycling in Arlington, since Arlington is a widely popular bicycling location and it would help further promote bicycling in Town. A general photo is needed for the webpage that illustrates some aspect of bicycling activities in Arlington. Immediately prior to the June 1 meeting at approximately 6p, several ABAC members and volunteers showed up for an informal photo shoot by Mike Beck around the Robbins Library. One of those photos will likely be chosen for this Town bicycling webpage.

Discussion on report to Selectmen from ABAC. Joey will be preparing the annual report document on ABAC activities for the Board of Selectmen. Joey also suggested going before the Board of Selectmen regularly at their meetings, perhaps twice a year. The purpose of this would be to raise visibility and importance of ABAC activities to the Board of Selectmen, and to solicit input and requests from them. Joey suggested targeting the Fall timeframe for appearing before the Board of Selectmen for this purpose.

Open forum:

Mike Beck is putting together a list of children's bicycling books. This is a way to promote bicycling by children in Arlington. The list included approximately 30 books on the topic of bicycling. Mike has obtained all of these books through the Robbins Library Minuteman Library Network. Since Robbins (Arlington) Library does not exclusively own all of them, Mike plans to request that they purchase those books not yet in their circulation. Mike plans to have color paper copies of this list available at the T-Shirt Fundraiser event on Saturday June 13. Mike also would like to see this list posted to the ABAC website, and distributed on a display at Robbins Library.

Joey handed out a flyer on Planning Director Kevin O'Brien's retirement party hosted by the Arlington Planning Department.

The next two ABAC meeting will be held Monday August 3 and Monday September 14. There will not be an ABAC meeting in July this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.

*Denotes a vote taken by the ABAC Board.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey Roth. Minutes changes accepted by *TBD*.